
Pinehurst

Fuels Assessment

Areas within the one mile of home sites:

Pinehurst is located just 4 miles inside the western boundary of Shoshone County. This community is one of only two that has fairly flat terrain, gentle slopes, and a dispersed neighborhood of homes (Kingston being the other). The forests in this area are a mixture of ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, and western larch, with wetter site tree species scattered where the site has more moisture and are north or east facing. Fire behavior fuel model 2, is common in this area. These forests experience fire spread primarily through the fine herbaceous fuels, either curing or dead. These are surface fires where the herbaceous material, in addition to litter and dead-down stemwood from the open shrubs and tree branches contribute to the intensity.

The homes in this community are concentrated around the downtown area, south of the golf course, and up pine creek. The groups of structures to the west of Pinehurst will be included in the discussions about Kingston.

Areas within 3 miles of the community center, but outside the one mile home zone:

Private, BLM, and US Forest Service owners are well represented in this region. However, unlike most of the I-90 corridor, these properties are not bounded by the high ridges common to this area. Slowly climbing river valleys dominate. The management on these parcels is highly varied with some parcels showing evidence of helicopter logging with slash on the



ground, to one particular parcel managed by the BLM that showcases exemplary management for reducing fire risk in the wildland-urban interface. This parcel located near Pine Creek (W½ NW¼, S31, T48N, R2E) was initially targeted as one of the parcels at high risk to rapid fire spread. But a thinning from below, debris removal, machine piling, and preparation of pile burning this fall (2002) has reduced the fire risk dramatically. This type of management should be considered around the county in areas where fire risk is high.



Community Risk Assessment

Pinehurst reported a population of 1,722 residents during the 2000 census, earning it the distinction as the second largest community in the county. When considering an area 1.25 miles beyond the city center, there are approximately 724 structures to be found. However, the downtown area is not considered to be at-risk to wildfire. The structures along the community perimeter, and scattered in the river drainages, on the hillsides, and in the forest total 269 structures and are at high-risk to wildfire loss.

This area receives rural fire protection from Shoshone County Fire District 2 with a station in Pinehurst. Wildland fire protection is provided by the Idaho Department of Lands with an office in nearby Cataldo.

The discussions of risk abatement will address each sub-community.

Pinehurst–downtown area

The downtown area of Pinehurst is complimented with many large trees, mostly ponderosa pine. Homes are concentrated into a continuous block with the outer perimeter directly flanking forest trees. While some of these trees are young, most are mature with a continuous underbrush layer. To further complicate matters, many of the outer perimeter homes show risk factors such as wooden



decks, firewood stacked against the homes, cured and tall grasses near the homes, and other items.

As with many communities in the county, Pinehurst will benefit greatly from the creation of a community fire break. This fire break will be most effective along the southern

border of the community. This 1,800 foot long fire break should thin out the standing trees, prune the leave trees, and dispose of the accumulated slash in the zone for a distance of 250 feet with a dirt line firebreak along the outer perimeter (10 acres). The western side of the community is flanked by Pine Creek and has ample hardwoods and wet site shrubs to provide a suitable fire break in all except the most extreme drought years.



Fairview Ave

Fairview Ave accesses a small area (including Camas St and Underwood Ave—east side of

Pinehurst) where just over a dozen homes are located. These homes are surrounded by tall shrubs, forbs, and grasses, and mature trees. In addition, the majority of these homes exhibit risk factors such as firewood stacked on wooden decks against wood siding. Some have cedar shake roofs, and most are at high risk to wildfire loss. It is highly recommended that these homeowners reduce specific risk factors around their own homes and that a community fire break be created around the sub-community. The firebreak would be shaped like a horseshoe (open to the west) and be approximately 1,900 log and 200 foot wide (8.7 acres).

Country Club Lane

Country Club Lane crosses Little Pine Creek to access an area with a couple dozen homes. The fire fuels within the community are generally controlled as most of the residents keep green lawns and trimmed bushes around their homes. However, it is the perimeter of this neighborhood that provides concern from a fire control standpoint. Many of the outer perimeter homes are shrouded by tall trees, thick shrubs, and at-risk factors common in other communities. Residents on the perimeter should be encouraged to reduce specific site risk factors. A community buffer zone should be created that encompasses the entire vicinity. The outer perimeter would



begin on Hilcrest Drive and continue around the homes at a distance of 250 feet for 2,800 feet ending at the eastern extent of Country Club Lane (16 acres). In this zone, trees should be pruned, forest litter piled and dead or dying trees removed. Debris should be chipped or piled and or burned. The outer perimeter of the fire break should be marked with a dirt line firebreak.

